Recruitment rules in respect of ISM and Homoeopathic Doctors

6397. SHRIMATI MALTI SHARMA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 2848 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 16th March, 1994 and state:

(a) what is the latest position with regard to the finalisation of the recruitment rules in respect of doctors of Indian System of Medicine and Homoeopathic under CGHS; and

(b) by when these recruitment rules would come into force?

THE MINISTE OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. C. SILVERA): (a) and (b) The Recruitment Rules in respect of all doctors of Indian System of Medicine & Homoeopathy under C.G.H.S. have since been received from the Union Public Service Commission and the same will be notified after beign vetted by the Ministry of Law & Justice. The rules will come into force from the date, the same are published in the Official Gazette.

Setting up of separate Directorate for ISM under CGHS

6398. SHRIMATI MALTI SHARMA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to set up a separate Directorate for the Indian System of Medicine under C.G.H.S.;

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard; and

(c) by when the said Directorate is likely to start functioning in a full fledged manner?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI PABAN SINGH GHATOWAR): (a) to (c) A separate Department of Indian System of Medicine & Homoeopathy has already been set up in this Ministry and is functioning for the promotion and development of Indian Systems of Medicine.

Use of artificial colouring agents on Vegetables

6399. SHRI YERRA NARAYANASWAMY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that artificial colouring agents applied on vegetables to make them appear fresh and green caused cancer;

(b) if so, whether Goverment will prohibit the use of such colouring agents; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. C. SILVERA): (a) to (c) Application of any extraneous colouring agents to vegetables is already prohibited under the provisions of Prevention of Food Adulteration Rules, 1995.

Letters written by MPs

6400. MOHAMMED AFZAL *alias* MEEM AFZAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of letters written by Members of Parliament to his Ministry during the period from 1st April, 1994 to 31st March, 1995;

(b) what is the number of letters acknowledged out of them;

(c) what is the number of letters in respect of which final replies were sent; and

(d) what is the break-up of final letters issued by the Ministry containing positive and negative replies respectively?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. C.

SILVERA): (a) to (d) Information is being collected and will be placed on the Table of the Sabha.

Functioning of AIIMS

6401. SHRI V. GOPALSAMY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) how many times the governing body of All India Institute of Medical Sciences have met during the last one year;

(b) who presided over each of these meetings; the details in each case; and

(c) what steps are being taken to streamline the functioning of administration of the Institute?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. C. SILVERA): (a) During the last one year the Governing Body of All Inida Institute of Medical Sciences met only once.

(b) The President of the Institute cum Chairman of the Governing Body presided over the meeting.

(c) The administration of the Institute is functioning smoothly.

Implementation of Rural Health Schemes

6402. SHRI SARADA MOHANTY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the centrally sponsored schemes pertaining to the rural health services are being reviewed from time to time;

(b) if so, the details of the latest review made in the matter;

(c) the performance of each State Government in the implementation of rural health services during the Eighth Five Year Plan so far; and

(d) the scheme-wise details thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI PABAN SINGH GHATOWAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) Rural Health schemes are reviewed on various fora including the meetings of the Health Secretaries of the States. An exhaustive review of the rural health services in the country was undertaken in the National Reivew Meeting in July, 1994, attended by State Health Directors. The general consensus in the meeting was that there was satisfactory performance in eastablishment of Sub-Centres and Primary Health Centres as per the national norms in majority of the States. Maching number of Community Health Centres are, however, being established in a phased manner. The States were of the opinion that backlog of construction of buildings for SCs and PHCs should be completed and funds for the same may be made available to the State Governments. It was further felt that the funds provided under the Minimum Needs Programme should be fully utilised and due importance should be given to hilly, backward and tribal areas for setting up of adequate rural health in frastructure.

Incidence of Iodine Deficiency Disease

6403. SHRI RAHASBIHARI BARIK: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there have been a high incidence of iodine daficiancy disease in the country;

(b) if so, the States where such incidents are taking place on a large scale;

(c) the steps taken to control such disease; and

(d) the details of the national programmes implemented therefor?